

§ 536.24

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§§ 536.20 through 536.35 only if the FTCA (28 U.S.C. 2671-2680), § 536.50, has been judicially determined not to be applicable to claims of this nature, or if the claim arose incident to noncombat activities.

(d) *Advance payments.* Advance payments under 10 U.S.C. 2736, as amended, in partial payment of meritorious claims to alleviate immediate hardship are authorized.

§ 536.24 Claims not payable.

A claim is not payable under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 which—

(a) Results wholly from the negligent or wrongful act of the claimant or agent.

(b) Is for reimbursement for medical, hospital, or burial expenses furnished at the expense of the United States.

(c) Is purely contractual in nature.

(d) Arises from private as distinguished from Government transactions.

(e) Is based solely on compassionate grounds.

(f) Is for war trophies or articles intended directly or indirectly for persons other than the claimant or members of his or her immediate family, such as articles acquired to be disposed of as gifts or for sale to another, voluntarily bailed to the Army, or is for precious jewels or other articles of extraordinary value voluntarily bailed to the Army. The preceding sentence is not applicable to claims involving registered or insured mail. No allowance will be made for any item when the evidence indicates that the acquisition, possession, or transportation thereof was in violation of DA directives.

(g) Is for rent, damage, or other payments involving the acquisition, use, possession, or disposition of real property or interests therein by and for the DA, except as authorized by § 536.23(b)(1). Real estate claims founded upon contract are generally processed under AR 405-15.

(h) Is not in the best interests of the United States, is contrary to public policy, or is otherwise contrary to the basic intent of the governing statute (10 U.S.C. 2733); for example, claims by inhabitants of unfriendly foreign countries or by or based on injury or death of individuals considered to be unfriendly to the United States.

When a claim is considered to be not payable for the reasons stated in this paragraph, it will be forwarded for appropriate action to the Commander, USARCS, together with the recommendations of the responsible claims office.

(i) If presented by a national, or a corporation controlled by a national, or a country at war or engaged in armed conflict with the United States, or of any country allied with such enemy country unless the settlement authority having jurisdiction over the claim determines that the claimant is and, at the time of the incident, was friendly to the United States. A prisoner of war or an interned enemy alien is not excluded as to a claim for damage, loss, or destruction of personal property in the custody of the Government otherwise payable.

(j) Is for personal injury or death of a member of the Armed Forces or Coast Guard or a civilian employee thereof which is incident to his or her service (10 U.S.C. 2733(b)(3)).

(k) The types of claims not payable under the FTCA (see § 536.50(j)) are also not payable under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 with the following exceptions:

(1) The foreign country exclusion in 28 U.S.C. 2680(k) does not apply to claims under §§ 536.20 through 536.35.

(2) The *Feres* bar in § 536.50(j)(1) does not apply to claims under §§ 536.20 through 536.35, but see the exclusion in paragraph (j) of this section.

§ 536.25 Claims also cognizable under other statutes.

(a) *General.* Claims based upon a single act or incident cognizable under §§ 536.20 through 536.35, which are also cognizable under the FTCA (28 U.S.C. 2671-2680) § 536.50, the Army Maritime Claims Settlement Act (10 U.S.C. 4801-04, 4806) § 536.60, the FCA (10 U.S.C. 2734), or title 31, U.S.C. section 3721 (Personnel Claims), will be considered first under the latter statutes. If not payable under any of those latter statutes, the claim will be considered under §§ 536.20 through 536.35.

(b) *Claims in litigation.* Disposition under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 of any claim of the type covered by this section that goes into litigation in any

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State or Federal court under any State or Federal statute or ordinance will be suspended pending disposition of such litigation and the claim file will be forwarded to the Commander, USARCS. The Commander, USARCS, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Justice, may determine that final disposition under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 during pendency of the litigation is in the best interests of the United States. This section will also apply to any litigation brought against any agent of the United States in his or her individual capacity which is based upon the same acts or incidents upon which a claim under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 is based.

§ 536.26 Presentation of claims.

(a) *When claim must be presented.* A claim may be settled under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 only if presented in writing within 2 years after it accrues, except that if it accrues in time of war or armed conflict, or if war or armed conflict intervenes within 2 years after it accrues, and if good cause is shown, the claim may be presented not later than 2 years after war or armed conflict is terminated. As used in this section, a war or armed conflict is one in which any Armed Force of the United States is engaged. The dates of commencement and termination of an armed conflict must be as established by concurrent resolution of Congress or by determination of the President.

(b) *Where claim must be presented.* A claim must be presented to an agency or instrumentality of the DA. However, the statute of limitations is tolled if a claim is filed with another agency of the Government and is forwarded to the DA within 6 months, or if the claimant makes inquiry of the DA concerning his or her claim within 6 months after it was filed with another agency of the Government. If a claim is received by an official of the DA who is not a claims approval or settlement authority under §§ 536.20 through 536.35, the claim will be transmitted without delay to the nearest claims office or JA office for delivery to such an authority.

§ 536.27 Procedures.

So far as not inconsistent with §§ 536.20 through 536.35, the procedures

set forth in §§ 536.1 through 536.13 will be followed. Subrogated claims will be processed as prescribed in § 536.5(b).

§ 536.28 Law applicable.

(a) As to claims arising in the United States, its territories, commonwealths, and possessions, the law of the place where the act or omission occurred will be applied in determining liability and the effect of contributory negligence on claimant's right to recover damages.

(b) In claims arising in a foreign country, liability of the United States will be assessed by reference to general principles of tort law common to the majority of United States jurisdictions. Absolute liability and similar theories are not a basis for liability under this section. Damages will be determined under § 536.29. If the negligence of the claimant was a partial cause of the injury, loss or damage, recovery will be barred if the negligence of the claimant is greater than that of the United States. In traffic accident cases, questions of negligence, and the degree of the claimant's comparative negligence, will be evaluated based on the traffic and vehicle safety laws and regulations of the country in which the accident occurred, but only to the extent they are not specifically superseded or preempted by the United States military traffic regulations.

§ 536.29 Compensation for property damage, personal injury, or death.

(a) *Measure of damages for property claims—(1) General.* The measure of damages in property claims arising in the United States or its possessions will be determined in accordance with the law of the place where the incident occurred. The measure of damages in property claims arising overseas will be determined in accordance with general principles of United States tort law.

(2) *Proof of damage.* The information listed below (similar to that required by 28 CFR 14.4(c)) will be submitted by a claimant to substantiate a claim.

(i) Proof of ownership.

(ii) Detailed statement of amount claimed for each item of property.

(iii) Itemized receipt of estimate for all repairs.